267 Rusholme Road
Toronto Ontario

January 12th 1901

Dear Sir

I am taking the liberty of writing to you, Dr. many to get out of the muddle I am in about the Horned Owls, the two supplements to the Check List have made confusion worse confounded. and knowing the attention you have given to the Horned Owls I thought it best to learn if possible from you how the names should read. First of all Stones article in the Auk of April 1896

called in question the name subsections, then the eight supplement to the Check List in the Code of 1897 admitted Bubo v. pacificus as No 375 C and rejected Lions suppression of subsections, now the ninth supplement has this 375 C Bubo v. pacificus "This should stand as No 375 b" Is 375 C a misprint for 375 C and does Bubo v. pacificus take the place of arctieus as 375 b or does it only add number arctieus I should be glad to get an

explanation, as it certainly is confusing.
I have seen Swainsons type but unfortunately I forgot to ask Mr Stone to show me Hoy's type of subarctens when in Philadelphia a few months ago.
I have had a great many Horned Owls in my hands in the last few years, as I was always intrusted in the subject some have been even lighter than the type of arctens though perhaps not as thinly barred the best come from Lake Manatoba though a few from north of Edmonton have been very light, and a form

Fleming, J. H.
Jan. 12, 1901

wanderus as far south as Toronto though very rarely certainly I have two Toronto birds that can hardly be called subarctica. I have several times had as many as a dozen Hooded Owls from Manotoba House and there has been a decided variation in the colors in some cases pure virginianus and pure arctica in the same lot. It seems to me if the Hooded owls must be separated some more definate description of these varieties ought to be published. yours truly

Wm Brewster

James H. Fleming

Cambridge Mass.

267 Rusholme Road
Toronto Ontario
February 25th 1901

Dear Mr Brewster

I was very glad to get your letter some time ago, since then I have had a chance to go over my skins of Horned Owls and find I have about 26 good skins in the lot a good many of them are albinos also a number of mounted ones so in to have accumulated on my hands a few of which are interesting

If my Specimens are of any use to you I shall be glad to lend them for examination I can send you a list and you can then judge if any or all are of interest sufficient to warrant you seeing them. Sharpe in his 'Hand List of Birds' has admitted all Stone's contentions. I carefully went over some years ago all the skins in the British Museum and at that time formed the opinion (with the insufficient material), that there was

possibly a dark and a light form besides the migrans and the dark bird from south of the U. S. border was a small forest race, however since then I have seen so many Canadian birds that I don't feel at all sure of anything.

Anyway I shall be only too happy to accept your decision and if I can in any way may be of service to you in the matter of specimens I will do what I can.

I hope sometime this summer

to have an opportunity of visiting
Boston and if so I would
look forward to seeing
both your collection and
the museum at Cambridge.
I trust you may join in the
words which restore you to
health.

Yours truly

James H. Fleming

Feb. 25, 1901
Fleming, J. H.

April 30th

267 RUSHOLME ROAD.
TORONTO.

1907

Answered May 4

Dear Mr Brewster,

I have been for some time getting information about the Eskimo Curlew and have examined a number of specimens, this has been necessary as the records cannot be taken owing to the great mix-ups that exists in the minds of most ornithologists I have so far examined about 50 specimens and now have nearly enough South American records to follow the route that, but I lack a good many points in North America

particularly in Labrador I had hoped
to be in Boston this spring but
find I cannot do so, would it be
too much trouble to you to give
me the records of specimens in your
collection and any information
possible about the birds disappeared.
Is it possible to get a record of
the specimens at Harvard from some
one who really knows the birds. I have
in mind a paper on the distribution
and flight of the Eskimo Curlew if
no one else is going to attempt it
I have a lot of material ready for
the other two species but will have

to leave them for inspection, the plumage of the young birds I want to have a try at but I would very much like to see your birds first and hope to do so. One thing I find is that the Long-billed Curlew wintering in Louisiana is the small eastern bird. I am bothered a lot over the Trumpeter Swan question and don't know if my birds are Trumpeters or not, the sternum of one of them is certainly buccinator but unfortunately there is a hitch in its history and there is just the possibility that it is not from my bird but I hope soon

to clear it up, but I feel sure that I can talk in Skimmia of the young Trumpeter but material is sadly lacking. I still want in Skimmia of a young whistler.

There is said to be a Pomerine Jaeger at Barnard taken by Collins May 30/1879 at Elliott and Prof Barrows tells me you identified it do you remember anything of this. I can find nothing but Parasitic from here and in Long-tailed Jaeger records in my hypothetical list I must find a Parasitic.

Yours sincerely

J. H. Fleming

Jan 31st
1911

267 RUSHOLME ROAD,
TORONTO

Dear Mr Brewster.

I sent an petal to you by post on last day I was in Washington, if it reached you I am in no hurry for its return but it occured to me that it might not have reached you. It will be important to tie up one kind to all the three types, and I will then be able to

take my birds to England some day to compare me known very little about the plumage variation of the petrels and Godmans monograph which I have is disappointing in this.

Evening Grosbeaks are here not many however, a few pine Grosbeaks and hardly any thing else. I have a red Screech Owl living in a box outside my window he has been here all winter so I suppose he finds food enough.

3.

I have just heard that some one has found a gull dead on the ice, white with black spots and black feet and small I hope it will prove to be an Ivory Gull. I am beginning to catch up with my collection and I have some interesting records to publish among them an Ancient Murrelet that had been previously recorded as a Dovekie. I have to face the problem of new cabinets for my small birds, I might use a new slide that is just what we have been tried for, and we are both looking for some solution of the door I might think he has a solution it takes too long to open the cans as they are made at present and I have been experimenting with double doors and I might with sliding ones. I was very glad to see your Whistler article in print it is a fascinating subject. I want to get Wells's Plainyard from Newfoundland do you know of any one able to get skins.

Yours truly

J. H. Fleming

May 8th 1911

267 RUSHOLME ROAD,
TORONTO.

Dear Mr Chrysler

I owe you an apology for not writing to acknowledge the receipt of the plate and to thank you for identifying it. When an artist neglects his correspondence he gets the benefit of the doubt on the ground of artistic temperament and sometimes I think ornithologists are in the same boat but unknown in benefit of the doubt. I have been plugging away at my collection all winter and I was surprised to find how my letters

had remained unanswered. I hope to finish up that petrel matter the next time I am in England. I would send it over now but for Bishop to look into but I have what seems to be a new duck for him to compare when he goes to London for the Coronation, and he will have quite enough to do. I was at Point Pelee on Lake Erie early in April there were a few Evening Grosbeaks there then and it seemed strange to hear Cardinals singing in the same territory. You will be glad to hear that P. A. Taverner

has been appointed assistant Curator of the new museum at Ottawa you have no doubt heard of him it is a great appointment and I hope the beginning of a National museum Taverner is one of the ablest men of our times. I received a balance sheet from the British Ornithologists Union today which reminds me why does not the A.O.U. do likewise. The last number of the 'Auk' was the best in years. I hope you will go on with your articles in Golden-eyes and in Bittern one. are just what we need. Some day we will be writing life histories instead of taxonomy.

Yours truly

J. H. Fleming

June 17th

267 RUSHOLME ROAD,
TORONTO.

1911

Dear Mr Brewster.

In going over my letters I see yours of last February is unanswered so I cannot have omitted to acknowledge the receipt of the Petrel which came safely. I am greatly obliged to you for all your trouble in the matter, it definately fixes the breeding locality but I must first of all find out who the collector was and where the eggs

are that Andrew got from I think Manley Hardy, Percy Seymour is given by Buller in his Supplement to Birds of New Zealand as having found a nesting colony of Oe. gutaris at Pleasant Inlet N.Z. and Godman in his Monograph refers to skins of the same species from the same Collector and place so it is just possible it was really a colony of Oe. scalmis that both authors refer to however I will wait till I get a better chance before writing up the matter. Possibly you have heard

that Mr P.A. Taverner has been appointed assistant curator of the new museum at Ottawa he is to have vertebrate Zoology a pretty wide field, we hope it is the beginning of a National Museum and the appointment means a great deal Taverner is one of the ablest men of his time and he is beginning his official duties by a tour of American museums and expects to go to Boston so I hope he will find your there. We wanted him appointed ornithologist but it was too early in the history of the museum for that. This spring has not been very good for collecting I got little of interest, saw a pair of redpoll Plover first I have seen for years. and heard of another pair.

I have just recalled why I did not write immediately on receipt of the petrel I put your letter aside to look up some notes I had about the petrel and an Indian collection. I have just finished both my accounts and away from petrels.

Yours sincerely

J. H. Fleming

November 7th
1912

267 RUSHOLME ROAD,
TORONTO.

Dear Mr Burnstead.

To prevent my
forgetting the Scaled Petrel question
in the hurry of the coming Boston
meeting, I was in England last summer
and about all the ornithological work
I did was to follow up all the
material I could find. As you know
after comparing the types of Oc. galeris
at Washington with my skin I was
inclined to think the birds were not

the same bird I found at Tring the specimens of Ot galeata that Salvin mentions as having been compared with the type and it being free from grease it was easier to judge wherein the two birds differ, in Ot galeata the much darker brown is accounted for by the depth of the dark ends of the feathers besides this it is darker on the back than Ot scalaris but I fancy it is only another state of plumage and that the two birds are the same I have also found

a specimen at Tring that connects in this plumages but I am not yet prepared to say what stage Ot gutturalis is older or younger in forms I think but that can only be settled by a study of allied forms when in same state of plumages Ephialtes Ot virginianus for instance, I examine in this Britis Museum birds, six at Tring, and all in ~~American~~ ones in American collections as far as I have seen, specs in type at Washington are comparable with your type and we can now give its breeding locality and what in downy young are like. Ot affinis in type of which is last is founded apparently on a bird in intermediate plumage. However I think it as well to leave in matter open though I hope to see some material at Tring.

I am looking forward to in meeting

Yours sincerely

J. H. Fleming

February 15th
1913

267 RUSHOLME ROAD,
TORONTO.

Dear Mr Brewster,

When I was in England last year I bought two collections of Costa Rica birds one of them collected by C.H. Lankester this latter collection 7 skins of common N.A. birds that are undoubtedly from North America in collectors initials are W. E. D. I enclose a list, I fancy in localities are New England. Insofar as in some cases in italics so it is probably in name of some house or farm

2

thinking you would be most likely to know if any such localities exist in New England I am writing you about the matter Skins of any birds from the New England States are of great importance to me, as they are hard to get and very necessary for comparison. I have just finished the Cataloguing of the Costa Rica skins and have revised all my Costa Rica collection with the aid of Carrikers book, he has done a first class piece of work, I have about 1800 skins of a little over 400 species from these some of the localities

are new and some of the plumages are undescribed
There are some important plover records & items
Plover is new and one or two of the North American
birds can be skilled as to what form occurs there.
I have now quite a lot of North American birds from
their winter range a thing I have always attached a
good deal of importance to. I wish I could go in
for Palaearctic birds more than I do I believe a
knowledge of them is of the greatest use in relation to
American birds and I look for the collection of quite
a few of the Asiatic water birds on the Pacific coast
of America just as soon as we have a working
knowledge of the plumages of Palaearctic forms, which
brings me to the question of why we include Green-
land in the A. O. U. Check List it is quite as
Palaearctic as Iceland. I was very glad to hear
from you about the Scaled Petrel Cabot or when
I get a chance I will go into the matter and send
my conclusions to you, one thing can be skilled is
the breeding plove of your bird but its identity
with Ee galapis is nothing more than probably yet.
There are so many questions of a like character to go
into but my collection does not give much time
for research I wish there were two a few younger
ornithologists coming on. Yours sincerely J. H. Fleming

December 18

267 RUSHOLME ROAD,
TORONTO.

1913

Dear Mr Brewster.

I am sending you two of my separates from The Natural History of the Toronto Region. I missed the A.O.U. meeting I fully intended returning from England in time for it, but it would have meant only two weeks ashore and the weather was wonderfully good for November so I decided to stay I saw a good many of the bird

men and got a little work in at the British Museum but my little daughter was bad and it is about much doing anything that summer I worked over the Red-backed Hawks and did a few things for Todd for his British Honduras paper. I went over Parkinsons drawings made during Capt Cooks 1st voyage they are unfinished but accurate to the last degree and away ahead of the period I looked into the case of Aestrelata gularis or Pterodroma inexpectata inexpectata (Forst) according to Mathews and Iredale Ibis 1913 p 233, there is no doubt the

drawing X is referable to *Gularis* not to *Scaberis*
I talked the matter over with Iredale who
has had about as much experience as any one
with Petrels about and he makes the rather
curious suggestion that *Scaberis* may be the
Northern race of *Gularis* based on the belief
that Petrels do not wander to the extent they
are usually believed to, he cites the case of
Pelagodroma marina with its breeding place
on the Salvage Islands which reminds me that
this Northern bird has been I think described
from New Zealand one which raises the
question whether the American records they
ought to be compared for our white-faced
Petrel might certainly be the one Grant found
on the Galapagos. I am sorry to hear you
were not at the A O U meeting I hope
you are not in bad health. I see that
three fellows were elected all first class
men but it raises the question why does
not the A O U elect 15 or 20 more all
of whom are eligible. I arrived in England
to find I had been elected a Corresponding
Member of the Zoological Society something quite
unexpected. Yours sincerely J. H. Fleming.

P.S. Iceland is the only place I know of where Barrows Golden-eye can be got.

February 2d 1914

267 RUSHOLME ROAD,
TORONTO.

Dear Mr Brewster

I was glad to get your letter of December 28th I was a little alarmed at what you wrote about Lord Williams Percy and the practice change theory, I had half expected to see him here as I was told he was coming this way when I was in England, however I think B.M. Strong has finally settled the question in his paper "The Development of the Definitive Coats" published

by your museum and birds that Millais and his disciples have got themselves into a trap they have furnished Pycraft with a feather from a pigeon and a written statement of their views they have also furnished him with a pen of live birds to experiment with. so we may expect results this year, in fact that some feathers flank ones I think are found partly red and partly barred in the pidgeon does not prove that the feather itself is changing it simply is the result of there being only enough pigment deposited to partially colour the feather as it grows

such a feather is called into use previous to the regular moult post-colonial feathers are usually in one generation of time, to replace lost feathers and do not become in full vigor of the original required for the succeeding plumage change. I do not consider Millais has any might his many beautiful works not-withstanding. I have just received a drawing Egret from the Rio Hardy (what does that mean) in Lower California and I have been wondering if it could be Brewsteri unfortunately I have not access to the description.

The Wilson Club is to have its first meeting in Chicago this week I would have liked to be there but it is a long trip in the winter season I hope Mr Deane will keep track of things there is a very decided tendency for the Middle west to break away from the A.O.U. which I don't like for I think there should be only one society for all. I have been appointed honary curator of ornithology at Altoona by the Government so I will be able to guide the growth of the National collection of birds I prefer this to the proposed advisory council. I hope you are well and will be in Washington in April.

Yours sincerely J. H. Fleming

267 Rusholme Road

Toronto Ontario November 3

1917

Dear Jim Bruster.

I hope to be at the

A.O.U. meeting but there are a couple

of matters that may easily be forgotten

in the rush so I will refer to them now.

You remember some correspondence I had

with you in 1912 about Australian scalers

the reason I got no further was that it

seemed best to wait for something to

turn up. I was in England late in 1913

and Tom Iredale who is G.M. Mathews

assistant in preparing the 'Birds of Australia'

and who has paid attention to the life

2 histories of the Petrels impressed on me the probability that your type could not be a stray from a New Zealand colony but that somewhere in the North Atlantic a breeding colony probably existed there, he based this on his knowledge of the various migratory limits of the Petrels of the South Seas, Oglivie-Grant had some years ago discovered a breeding colony of Pelecanoma marina on the Salvage Islands thus accounting for the European records Mathews has since ~~Dr Finsch~~ divided the North Atlantic form from the South Atlantic bird calling the latter P. m. mavriana on good grounds I think. I have brought in the white faced Petrel only to show that the

is evidence in support of Iredales theory, I must own since him carefully the drawings of Petrels made by Parkinson on Capt Cooks first voyage and also since Mathews must own the series of skins of Æ. gularis in the British Museum, unfortunately I have as yet, no evidence of what I believe is likely to be the case, that New Zealand skins of what we suppose are Æ. scalaris can become as dark as the type of Æ. gularis by wear I may find this evidence any time possibly in the Danford collection but that would not settle the question of the origin of your type, if from some unknown North Atlantic colony both Mathews and Iredall were firmly of the opinion it cannot be the same sub-specifically as the New Zealand birds whose correct name would stand as Procellaria inexpectata Forster (Parkinson was the artist, and Forster the naturalist on Cooks first voyage.) making your bird a subspecies of it. There is however a further complication, there exists in the Danford collection in New York some skins from Kiska Island in the Aleutians of which are no doubt Æ. fisheri that are so close to the N. Z. skins of Æ. scalaris as to raise a doubt of the place of origin of your type of course it is improbable that a petrel should wander east presumably through the Arctic Ocean to New England, on the other hand there

is an Ancient Manuscript of which there are three Great Lakes records. If you remember I found that my N.Z. skin of Oc. scaluris did not quite agree with the type of Oc. ~~gutturalis~~ fisheri so there is still enough character to justify the matter of the Scaled Petrel being left as it is. Some day some one will get the solution.

One other matter is this, in Stearns' New England Bird Life p 298 reference is made to a copy of Boardmans Catalogue of 1862 with manuscript additions (by Boardman if my memory is correct) in the possession of Mr Purdie. I wonder if

you know the fate of the copy Boardman's list is of interest from a Canadian standpoint.

The war hit me very hard, not only financially, but because so many friends and relations went off to the front, that looking after other affairs had to come before birds so my collection has not grown as it ought but the pause has not been harmful as I have been able to catch up quite on literature & ornithology in fact it has been a relief to turn to books after the war news as we get it here and my letter writing has been mostly to those over-seas, the letters I get are of the most cheerful kind. I was in

Allamuchy all last week and saw a recent letter from Allen Brooks in which he was plainly getting restless he said the front was going further back and now the flashes of the guns were on the horizon, however his headquarters had been bombed and he sent some skins to the museum of birds killed by the bombs. The front seems to have a fatal attraction, tonight I cut out two paragraphs from the paper about two brothers I know, one gets a bar to his military cross the other is killed still another brother was here a few weeks ago with a bullet in his brain which the English surgeons refused to remove until he went to Baltimore and got it out so I expect to hear he is back flying This has been a poor bird year in migration with sporadic and birds scarce, in the west it has been the best duck year known, we are in the midst of a big Hawk fall migration and this is a no rabbit year all through the north so we may expect an influx of hawks.

I go on Tuesday to New York to spend a few days with Dwight and then to Boston, and shall look forward to seeing you. I am glad to see Reley and Tammen are both up for election as fellows Tammen is doing a great work at Allamuchy.

Yours sincerely J. H. Fleming

Kansas, esp to the Rocky Mountains
June 16th 1871, the date looks fishy
it is too early even for a barren
bird. I see also one mistake data
from the Thayer Expedition, do you
happen to know what or when this
expedition was? Mr Brewster is
lucky to have as many Eskimo Curlew
as he has, please thank him for
his letter, I hope he will be better
soon but the weather is not encouraging
I took a long siege of illness this winter
and am looking forward to warm
weather to start out.

Yours sincerely J. H. Fleming

RECEIVED
MAY 13 1907

May 10th 1907

267 RUSHOLME ROAD.
TORONTO.

See inside

Dear Mr Deane.

I am exceedingly
obliged to you for all the trouble
you have gone to in the Eskimo
Curlew matter, the records are of
great use to me I now have
reliable identifications of 83 specimens
so I may now begin to get the route
of migration in shape, it seems to
coincide quite that of the Golden
plover. I notice one specimen in
Mus of Comp Zool & Dall Hayes

Thayer Exp.
Letters Mr. Hall, Thayer
father of John E.
1865-66.

See
Journey to Brazil
Louis Agassiz
Nelson Field
1871.